Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 14 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 15 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 13 Jan 2023 at 14:33

Confidence: High confidence for turning colder with the risk of some snow at lower levels and northwesterly winds later in the weekend.

Headline for Saturday 14 Jan 2023: Heavy rain at first, turning colder with rain turning to snow, dry for a time then showery later with strengthening winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 14 Jan 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Sleet showers	Heavy snow showers	Partly cloudy (night)	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
80%	80%	80%	80%	70%	70%	40%	70%

Forecast for Saturday 14 Jan 2023

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain, heavy at times overnight, perhaps sleet on the tops by morning. The rain continuing but freezing level falling through the morning with rain turning to sleet at higher levels by mid morning. Rain tending to clear through by late morning with some cloud breaks developing and perhaps some brighter or sunny spells. Through the afternoon showers will develop and these will turn wintry above 500m, showers may cluster together to give longer spells of snow on the tops and combined with westerly gales some blizzard like conditions can be expected by late afternoon with a severe wind chill expected on the fells.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20%, improving to 60% for a time when the rain clears but dipping back to 50% in showers later.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive low cloud expected from daybreak with overcast layers above 300m, perhaps cloud bases slightly higher around northern fells. Visibility expected to be poor in heavy rain and sleet on the fells in the morning. Cloud lifting and becoming more scattered by late morning with a good chance of some views for a time in the middle of the day, visibility will become good too. As afternoon showers develop cloud will thicken and lower over the summits in showers and the potential for blizzard of white out conditions on the higher fell tops is there during the afternoon with strong winds.

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Forecast for Saturday 14 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	36/45 S	25/32 S	22/28 SW	23/30 W	30/41 W	37/50 W	44/59 W	48/66 W	47/64 W
600	30/42 S	22/31 S	17/24 SW	18/25 W	26/37 W	30/44 SW	37/53 W	40/59 W	37/54 W
300	8/28 S	8/23 S	5/18 SW	8/21 W	12/31 W	14/37 W	17/44 W	19/50 W	18/47 W
Valley	7/24 SE	8/21 S	6/17 SW	10/23 W	14/31 W	17/36 SW	21/44 W	23/49 W	22/47 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-7	2/-4	2/-4	-0/-7	-2/-10	-2/-12	-2/-12	-2/-12	-2/-13
600	2/-5	4/-2	4/-1	2/-4	1/-6	0/-8	0/-8	0/-9	-0/-9
300	4/1	5/2	5/4	4/0	3/-1	3/-2	2/-3	2/-4	1/-4
Valley	5/3	7/5	7/5	6/3	6/2	5/1	5/0	5/-1	4/-1
Freezing Level*	1200m	1300m	1300m	900m	600m	600m	600m	600m	500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Winds becoming very strong during the afternoon with freezing level lowering to 5-600m and snow and sleet showers expected, blizzard conditions are possible and it would be easy to be fooled by early rain and milder conditions. Severe gales on the higher fell tops by evening.

Forecast for Sunday 15 Jan 2023

Weather: Wintry showers are expected overnight with a period of heavy precipitation likely. Becoming brighter on Sunday morning with winds easing for a time and some bright or sunny periods likely through the afternoon. Further wintry showers are possible later in the day.

Maximum wind: Northwesterly 15-20mph with gusts 25-30mph backing southwesterly 15mph later.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20%, associated with overnight sleet and snow, improving to 70%, cloud still dipping over the summits in afternoon showers.

Low cloud and visibility: Broken cloud layers above 400m and poor visibility in the morning with some blizzard conditions during the morning. Cloud lifting above summits in the afternoon with visibility mostly good for a time, although lowering again in any showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 falling to 3 Celsius later.
At 800m: Minus 3 celsius.
Freezing level: 500m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 13 January 2023. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:13. Full report: Another windy day with low cloud and scattered showers. The majority of the Lakeland fells are snow-free, however, there is snow present above 800m which is patchy in distribution over exposed ground, varying from very little (or nothing) to knee-deep drifts in sheltered areas. The greatest accumulations of snow are found on steep north and east-facing slopes above 800m. Soft and unstable cornices are also present around corrie rims in these locations and should be given a wide berth. The summit temperature today was just above freezing with snow continuing to melt at all levels. Striding and Swirral edge are in winter condition and a steep bank of snow exists on their exit slopes. It would only take a slight drop in temperature to freeze today's wet snow, meaning that it may be hard and icy tomorrow. Any overnight precipitation may also fall as snow over high ground, therefore, anyone heading out tomorrow should be prepared for more snow and ice than described here. Although the summit temperature today was a little above freezing, the windchill (feels-like) temperature was around -9ºC, and anyone standing still even for short periods of time would get very cold very quickly. Full winter clothing (warm and waterproof) including hats and gloves, a map, compass, and headtorch are all essential. For anyone considering steep and exposed routes above the snowline, an ice axe and crampons/microspikes are also essential and goggles are highly recommended for route-finding and navigating in windy conditions. Temperature: plus 0.4 C, Maximum wind speed 36.8 mph, Wind chill: minus 9.0 C, Average wind speed: 30.7 mph

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